girls compared to boys. This is a reflection of gender bias against girls and the unequal status of women.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Toxic effect of endosulfan

2660. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute toxic effect of Endosulfan on fish, other aquatic life and human beings and its role as the leading casue of pesticide poisoning;

(b) whether it is a fact that its use has been banned/restricted in some countries; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction to the use of the hazardous pesticide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) All pesticides including Endosulfan being toxic in nature have toxic effects on fish, other aquatic life and human beings. However, safe and judicious use of Endosulfan as per the recommended practices may not be the cause of pesticide poisoning.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government had constituted an Expert Committee in 1989 to review the use of 14 Pesticides including Endosulfan. After considering the recommendations of the Committee it was decided to continue its use. Reviewing the use of pesticides is a continuous process and it is proposed to refer this product for further review.

Establishment of residential primary schools for poorest of the poor

2661. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to establish at least one residential primary school in each district, exclusively for the poorest of the poor;

(b) if so, what will demarcate the poor and the poorest of the poor and how these schools will be funded and administered; and

(c) what are the details of the scheme to be launched very soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 1996-97 has set apart an initial sum of Rupees Five crore to assist in the establishment of residential primary schools for poor children irrespective of caste or creed. It is intended that this scheme should be implemented through non-government organisations. The guidelines and operational modalities of the scheme shall be worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

National Conference by FAO

2662. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) organised a national conference on July 3, 1996 in New Delhi to study how far the Panchayati Raj